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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 2356.0010-05
Customer Number 22,852

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Marc ALIZON et al.) Group Art Unit: 1648
)
Application No.: 09/986,799) Examiner: J. Parkin
)
Filed: November 13, 2001)
)
For: A VARIANT OF LAV VIRUSES)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 8

In response to the Office Action dated July 14, 2003 (Paper No. 8), applicants submit the following remarks.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Parkin for the courtesy of the Interview of October 7, 2003. During the Interview, applicants traversed the rejection of claims 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants pointed out that the specification contains the complete sequence of HIV-1ELI, and identifies conserved and non-conserved regions by sequence comparison to other known HIV-1 viruses (e.g., Fig. 3). The Examiner agreed that claims 23-30 were allowable.